Message Text

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USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: GATT, ETRD

SUBJECT: GATT CONSULTATIVE GROUP OF 18 (CG-18)

REF: GENEVA 5269

- 1. D-G LONG CALLED MEETING JULY 28 OF PREPARATORY GROUP TO DISCUSS NEXT CG-18 MEETING. AT US REQUEST DATES OF FALL MEETING CHANGED TO SEPT 22-23.
- 2. LONG RECOMMENDED THAT AGENDA CONSIST OF THE FOUR ITEMS DISCUSSED AT LAST MEETING OF PREPARATORY GROUP (SEE REFTEL):
 (A) RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE, (B) BOP MEASURES, PARTICULARLY QUESTION OF MINI-PROCEDURES FOR LDC'S, (C) DISPUTE SETTLEMENT MECHANISM AND (D) AUSTRALIAN AGRICULTURE PAPER. EGYPT (HAMZA), ONLY DEL TO COMMENT ON THESE ITEMS, SAID THAT EGYPT WOULD WANT TO DISCUSS QUESTIONS OF EMERGENCY MEASURES AND IDEA FOR A REVIEW OF THE GATT BY A GROUP OF "WISE MEN," BOTH SUBJECTS DISCUSSED AT PRELIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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VIOUS MEETING OF CG-18. HAMZA ALSO SAID HE WOULD RAISE QUESTION OF TRADE IN TEXTILES UNDER FIRST AGENDA ITEM.

3. THE EC (LUYTEN), SUPPORTED BY JAPAN (UKAWA), THEN ASKED FOR ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEM, THE QUESTION OF THE DEFINITIVE APPLICATION OF GATT UNDER GATT ARTICLE XXVI. LUYTEN SAID THAT CG-18 WAS PROPER FORUM TO EXPLORE POS-

SIBILITIES THAT MIGHT ARISE IN COMING YEARS TO MAKE GATT DEFINITIVE AND THUS TERMINATE ITS PROVISIONAL APPLICATION (PPA). LUYTEN ADDED THAT THE EC WOULD CIRCULATE A SHORT PAPER BEFORE THE CG-18 OUTLINING ITS THOUGHTS ON THIS MATTER.

4 WE NOTED WITH SURPRISE THE EC'S SUGGESTION, SAID THAT WE NEEDED TO REFLECT ON IT, AND RESERVED OUR POSITION. LUYTEN THEN CLAIMED THAT A CONSENSUS WAS NOT NECESSARY FOR THE ADDITION OF CG-18 AGENDA ITEMS, AND LONG SIDETRACKED THE QUESTION BY CLOSING THE MEETING.

5. IN SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSIONS, WE (BARRACLOUGH, CULBERT) EXPRESSED OUR DISPLEASURE AT THE EC'S ATTEMPT TO ADD PPA TO THE AGENDA, POINTING OUT THAT DURING TH EC-US MTN BILATERALS IN MARYLAND WE HAD MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE US COULD NOT CONSIDER A BLANKET REMOVAL OF THE PPA AND THAT THE WAY TO RESOLVE PROBLEMS CAUSED BY THE "GRANDFATHER" CLAUSE WAS TO ADDRESS THESE INDIVIDUAL PROBLEMS IN THE COURSE OF THE MTN. LUYTEN REPLIED THAT, IF WE HAD SAID THIS, IT WAS NOT CLEAR TO THE EC. HE ADDED THAT THE ADDITION OF THIS AGENDA ITEM IS MEANT TO BE EXPLORA-TORY RATHER THAN CONFRONTATIONAL AND THAT IT INVOLVES MORE COUNTRIES THAN THE US (SUCH AS AUSTRALIA). HE ALSO SAID, WITHOUT EXPLANATION, THAT IT IS POSSIBLE TO HAVE DEFINITIVE ACCEPTANCE OF THE GATT AND STILL HAVE PPA FOR CERTAIN PRACTICES. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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6. WE HAVE CONFIRMED WITH THE SECRETARIAT (PATTERSON) THAT THE CIRCULATION OF THE AGENDA WILL BE DELAYED UNTIL WE AND THE CHAVE HAD TIME TO DISCUSS THE MATTER FURTHER.

VANDEN HEUVEL

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NNN

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